

Agency 28 - Department Of Veterans' Affairs

Statutory Authority:

The Department of Veterans' Affairs was created by LB 187 and LB 240 of the 1947 Session of the Legislature. It's duties and organization are outlined in Article 3, Chapter 80, Section 314-322, Article 4, Chapter 80, Section 401-412 and Article 9, Chapter 80, Section 901-903, Article 13, Chapter 12, Section 1301. The agency also has a complete set of Rules and Regulations on file with the Secretary of State.

Vision Statement:

It is the vision of the Department of Veterans' Affairs that all Nebraska veterans and their dependents will have a quality of life that is dignified and acceptable in our society, reflective of the appreciation Nebraskans have for the freedoms won and preserved by veterans.

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Department of Veterans' Affairs is to provide assistance to Nebraska veterans and their dependents in acquiring county, state, and federal benefits to which they are entitled by virtue of their service to this country.

1. Administer state benefit programs for qualified Nebraska veterans and eligible dependents.
2. Prepare and present cases on state and federal benefits for qualified Nebraska veterans and their dependents before the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.
3. Serve as the state's chief advocate for the veteran's position on all issues, legislative or otherwise, that impact their benefits, their status or their social well-being.
4. A State Veterans' Cemetery System has been created in statutes to allow for operating and maintaining veteran cemeteries in Nebraska.

Goals:

Goals for the Department of Veterans' Affairs are as follows:

1. Improve the quality of all services provided to veterans, their spouses or dependents.
2. Enhance relationships with other agencies, organizations, and individuals that impact the veteran community.
3. Increase the knowledge of all service officers and other appropriate officials about veterans benefits.
4. Increase the number of eligible Nebraska veterans and dependents who may receive state and federal benefits.
5. Increase the awareness and appreciation among Nebraskans for the sacrifices made by veterans.
6. Maintain or expand upon the range of state and federal benefits available to veterans.
7. Use every means possible to improve communications with veterans' advocates and organizations that serve veterans.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY02	Approp FY03	Request FY04	Recom FY04	Request FY05	Recom FY05
General Fund	591,802	632,377	632,377	738,453	632,377	756,056
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	591,802	632,377	632,377	738,453	632,377	756,056

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Program 036 - Veterans' Affairs

Program Objectives:

1. Administer the Nebraska Veterans' Aid Fund to provide aid promptly to needy veterans and their eligible dependents experiencing an unforeseen emergency.
2. Process applications for Waiver of Tuition for children, spouse, widow or widowers.
3. Maintain military discharges for all veterans leaving the military who request that Nebraska be provided a copy.
4. Process applications for Tuition Credit for Active Reservists.
5. Maintain a permanent registry of the graves of all persons who shall have served in the Armed Forces of the United States and whose mortal remains rest in Nebraska.
6. Maintain a Service Office that assists veterans and their dependents in applying for federal benefits.
7. Process applications for admittance to the Nebraska Veterans' Homes.

Financial Data:

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Performance Measures:

Description	FY02 Actual	FY03 Current	FY04 Request	FY05 Request
NVA Fund Applications Processed	1932	2000	2050	2100
NVA Fund Payments	\$1,374,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,600,000	\$1,700,000
Waiver of Tuition Applications Processed	185	190	195	200
Discharges Received and Filed	2083	2200	2300	2400
Discharge Requests	3122	3150	3200	3250
Tuition Credit for Reservists	57	57	57	57
Grave Registrations	1766	1800	1850	1900
State Service Office, new POA's Received	2203	2250	2300	2350
Veterans Home Applications Processed	349	375	400	425
# Vet Organizations State Recognized	8	8	8	8
# FTE Accredited w/Recognized Orgs	5	9	9	9
# Staff Accredited w/Other Organizations	4	8	8	8
# FTE that hold Accreditations	5	9	9	9
Annual Accreditation Training for SSO 4-FTE	7	8	8	8
Mailings	205	180	140	120
Website Posting/E-mail	50	120	170	210
County Vet Serv Off Training Conferences	2	1	1	1
Speak at NACO District & State Meetings	5	7	7	7
# of Presentations by Director	50	65	65	65
# of Presentations by Staff	49	50	50	50
# of Highschool Diplomas WWII/Korea Vets	430	50	25	20